



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

12 February 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 4 December 2023, requesting information about social services in the Ministry of Social Development's (the Ministry) Southern region. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

1. Social services commissioned in MSD Southern region in the 2023 year including details such as the total value of funding provided, providers, type and purpose of the service and any indication of the degree to which these services target Pacific peoples,

Please find attached **Appendix One**, containing a list of funding for the southern region for the financial year 2023. This list contains the name of the provider, name of the contract, a description of each provider service, service priority group and funding allocated.

We would like to note that a number of services funded by the Ministry are nationwide services and may only include the southern region as part of their funding, so not all the provided funding would be allocated to the southern region.

To provide you this information, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, requires substantial collation. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your requests given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information

requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

You will also note that in the service priority group column, the providers who have targeted their services to Pacific people have been highlighted green. Please contact us if you would like further information regarding these services.

2. What data MSD may hold on NEETs in the Southern region

Please find attached **Appendix Two** containing the number of Pacific people and other enrolled youths in NEET in the Southern Region as at end of year 2019 to 2023. We have provided this data broken down by Pacific people and Non-Pacific people, to assist in your research.

As advised in our email to you of 13 December 2023, for further data about NEET's, please contact the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

3. A time series table containing a list of assistance types and total number of people on each assistance broken down by ethnicity, in the MSD Southern region.

Please find attached **Appendix Three**, containing the following tables:

- **Table One:** Current working age main benefit recipients, Pacific people and other clients, as at the end of the calendar years 2018 – 2023, for the Southern Region Territorial Authorities.
- **Table Two:** Current working age main benefit recipients, Pacific people and other clients, as at the end of the calendar years 2018 – 2023, by Territorial Authority.
- **Table Three:** Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment for Pacific people and other clients as at the end of the calendar years 2018 – 2023, for the Southern Region Territorial Authorities.
- **Table Four:** Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment for Pacific people and other clients as at the end of the calendar years 2018 – 2023, by Territorial Authority.
- **Table Five:** Pacific people and other clients in receipt of Orphan's benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of the calendar years 2018 – 2023, for the Southern Region Territorial Authorities.
- **Table Six:** Pacific people and other clients in receipt of Orphan's benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit as at the end of the calendar years 2018 – 2023, by Territorial Authority.
- **Table Seven:** Pacific people and other clients in receipt of Supplementary Assistance as at the end of the calendar years 2018 – 2023, for Southern Region Territorial Authorities.

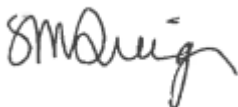
- **Table Eight:** Pacific people and other clients in receipt of Supplementary Assistance as at the end of the calendar years 2018 – 2023, by Territorial Authority.
- **Table Nine:** Pacific people and other clients who received 5k to work grants for the calendar years 2018 – 2023, for Southern Region Territorial Authorities.
- **Table Ten:** Pacific people and other clients who received 5k to work grants for the calendar years 2018 – 2023, by Territorial Authority.
- **Table Eleven:** Number and amount of hardship assistance granted to Pacific people and other clients for the calendar years 2018 – 2023, for Southern Region Territorial Authorities.
- **Table Twelve:** Number and amount of hardship assistance granted to Pacific people and other clients for the calendar years 2018 – 2023, by Territorial Authority.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal detailed removed, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



pp.

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services